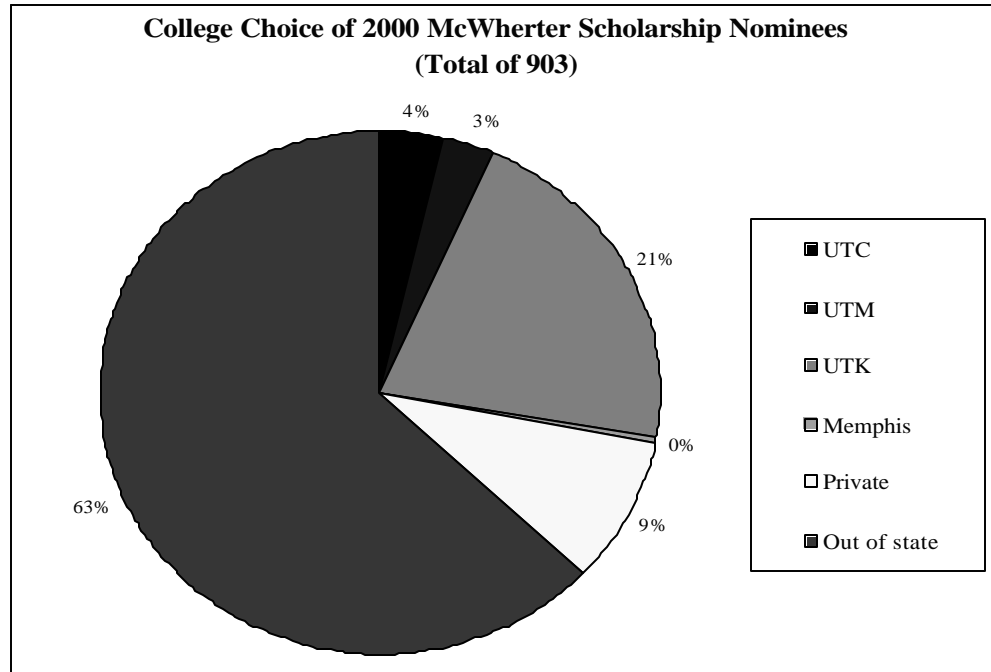


“The Best and Brightest”

Of the 903 students who applied for the McWherter scholarship, THEC was able to match 253 students from public college and university enrollment data for Fall 2000. Additionally, 82 (9%) attended an in-state private institution. Thus, 335 out of the 903 (37%) students attended a Tennessee institution.



Student Perceptions of Tennessee Higher Education

- Many top students are attending college out of state b/c they feel they can get a better education for the money.
- I know the TN public schools, especially UTK, are trying to improve, but I felt that it was important to go to a great school that concentrated on academics. (student went to GA Tech).
- TN public higher education would have better served me if the class sizes were smaller, more freshmen classes were taught by professors, the buildings were in better condition and if more leaving professors were replaced with full time qualified professors.
- I find it disappointing that tuition is being raised 15%. Although I understand the difficult position lawmakers are in when setting a budget, I believe more money should be given to higher education. There are few other areas that are more important.
- Let's face it, TN is not known for its academics. I decided to go the Univ. of Alabama because their honors academic programs were better than the ones I found in TN.
- I love TN. I want to live and work here. UTK is a great institution. However, I worry that our state does not value our state universities.
- I was hesitant to select any public university within the state of TN due to our state's poor reputation compared to other public schools such as UVA and UNC (Student selected Vanderbilt).